



California State Assembly

LORI SALDAÑA

ASSEMBLYMEMBER, 76TH DISTRICT

Dear Friend:

The U.S. Congress developed Part D to provide Medicare participants with an insurance program that pays some or all of the cost of their prescription drugs. However, the new program has left millions of Californians confused.

While it is a government insurance program, to get coverage, you must choose a prescription drug coverage plan from a **private** company. You should compare prescription drug plans that are being offered under Part D because each plan and the costs associated with it may be different. In California alone, there are more than 40 different drug plans available.

If you already have a drug prescription benefit through your employer or union retirement plan, you should contact your former employer, retirement administrator or union BEFORE signing up for any Medicare drug plan. Be sure to keep any letters your employer sends you, explaining how your current prescription coverage compares with Medicare Part D coverage.

If you have not already done so, you must sign up now because the deadline is **May 15, 2006**. After that, you may be required to pay a higher monthly premium when enrolling.

If you have questions or need to enroll in a program, please attend the **Medicare Part D Workshop and Senior Health Fair on Friday, April 28th**.

Thank you.

NO RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE MADE ON SPECIFIC PLANS, BUT INFORMATION THAT WILL LET YOU COMPARE PLANS AND MAKE THE BEST CHOICE WILL BE PROVIDED.



**Come join Assembly Member
Lori Saldaña at a**

Senior Health Fair

Friday, April 28, 2006

9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Clairemont Friendship Senior Center

4425 Bannock Avenue

San Diego, CA 92117

Come learn about diabetes, obesity and osteoporosis and their effects on senior health. The health fair will provide free screenings and information about health and social services including:

✕ Diabetes screenings ✕

✕ Blood pressure evaluation ✕

✕ Body Mass Index test (BMI) ✕

✕ Osteoporosis screening ✕

Quick Reference to Medicare Part D

- **When is the deadline to sign up?**

You must sign up for a plan by May 15, 2006. If you become eligible after that time, you are allowed to sign up. If you choose not to enroll, then you are not allowed to enter the program until the end of 2006 for coverage in 2007. After May 15, 2006 your premium will permanently increase one percent each month that you delay enrollment.

- **What is covered?**

Each individual plan covers different drugs. Not all plans will pay for all drugs. If a medication is not covered by a plan, it will not pay for any cost of the drug. You need to check if a plan covers your medication.

- **What are your choices?**

There is a lot of diversity in the plans offered. You need to consider a plan's costs, drug coverage and the pharmacy network. If you need additional help, please come to the workshop listed and bring all the required information.

To sign up for a Medicare plan,
Visit **www.medicare.gov**
Or call **1-800-633-4227**



FREE Prescription Drug Workshop

What to bring to the workshop:

1. **Your Medicare card.** If you are also enrolled in Medi-Cal, bring that card, too.
2. **Your medications.** If you cannot bring the bottles with labels, a list of your medications, including the dose and how many of each medicine you take a day.
3. Any information or cards from any other health insurance or drug prescription programs you are currently enrolled in.
4. **The name and location of your pharmacy.**
5. **Your zip code.**



X Yes, I want to attend the **FREE Prescription Drug Workshop**. Sign me up for the following:

Friday, April 28 • 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Clairemont Friendship Senior Center
4425 Bannock Avenue
San Diego, CA 92117

NAME*:

PHONE*:

EMAIL:

*Name and Phone # must be included in order to confirm the time slot you're requesting.

Resources

Medicare Help

For help with choosing Part D prescription drug coverage and for questions about Medicare:
Help Desk: 1-800-MEDICARE
(800) 633-4227
TTY (877) 486-2048
www.medicare.gov

California Medi-Cal

Help Desk: (916) 636-1980
www.medi-cal.ca.gov

Social Security Administration

If you have questions about Medicare, Social Security retirement benefits, disability benefits or eligibility requirements, please call:
(800) 772-1213
TTY (800) 325-0778
www.ssa.gov

Medicare Help for Californians

For accurate, unbiased information about Medicare benefits for people who live in California.
www.calmedicare.org

California's Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP)

If you need help with Medicare or other health care issues, you can get free counseling through HICAP. Counselors can assist you with Medicare claims, appeals and denials or delays of service or treatment. They can also give you unbiased advice about Medicare HMOs, supplemental insurance, long-term care insurance and more. To find your local HICAP office, call: (800) 434-0222

Questions to consider in deciding if the new Medicare Prescription Drug Plan is best for you:

1. Do you currently have prescription drug coverage through your employer or union sponsored retirement plan? You should contact your former employer, retirement administrator or union BEFORE signing up for any Medicare drug plan to find out if your current plan is as good or better and what impact signing up for a Medicare Part D plan will have on your health insurance. Be sure to keep any letters your employer sends you, explaining how your current prescription coverage compares with Medicare Part D coverage.
2. Which Plans include the medications you currently take?
3. Which of the Medicare Prescription Drug Plans are most affordable for you while covering your medication costs?
4. Which Plans will allow you to continue getting medication at your current pharmacy? If your pharmacy isn't on the list of the plan you want, is there a nearby pharmacy you are comfortable switching to?
5. Total up the cost of your medications for each month, or for the entire year. After paying the monthly Plan premium, the co-payment and any deductible, will you save money?



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PLEASE
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STATE OF CALIF.
ASSEMBLY

Are you confused about
Medicare and your Health?

You're invited to attend a
Prescription Drug Workshop
and FREE Senior Health Fair

Friday, April 28th, 9 AM to 3 PM

You're invited to
a **FREE** Medicare
Workshop & Senior
Health Fair, **April 28th**

Don't be denied your critical prescriptions

IMPORTANT
INFORMATION
INSIDE

